

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to examiner's attached interview summary conducted October 27, 2010.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Jensen on October 27, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIM

In claim 1, line 9 after "pad," delete "at least for a first portion" and insert - -over an entire area- -;

line 10 after "contact pad" delete "that is";

line 12 after "wherein the" delete "top of metal contact pad" and insert - -entire top of the metal contact pad within the opening - -.

In claim 6, line 10 after "pad" insert - -; wherein a first thickness over an entire area of the metal contact pad not covered by the passivation layer, is smaller than a second thickness of said conductive strips- -.

Art Unit: 2813

In claim 7, line 11 after "pad" insert - -; wherein the thickness over an entire area of the metal portion not covered by the passivation layer, is smaller than a second thickness of said conductive strips- -.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not disclose or make obvious the last level metallization of an integrated circuit wherein the thickness over an entire area of the metal pad/ portion not covered by the passivation layer, is smaller than a second thickness of said conductive strips that are covered by the passivation including all the limitations of the independent claim.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art discloses in: Yamaha (U.S 7,067,928), Harada (U.S. 5,525,546) and Tsai (U.S. 6,787,918) pad with different thickness than conductive strips.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. MITCHELL whose telephone number is (571)272-1931. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew Landau can be reached on (571) 272-1731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2813

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew C. Landau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2813

November 18, 2010
/James M. Mitchell/
Examiner, Art Unit 2813